

RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY
PSYCH 340.02
FALL 2014
M/W/F 11:00 – 11:50

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OFFICE HOURS: M/W/F 10:00 – 11:00
THURSDAY 12:30 – 1:30
OR BY APPOINTMENT
OFFICE LOCATION CAS ROOM 105

Required Texts:

Research Methods by White, T. L., & McBurney, D.H., 9th edition. Wadsworth.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition.

Enforced Prerequisites:

You must have successfully completed [received a passing grade] PSYCH 100 Introductory Psychology, MATH 124 [or higher] and PSYCH 240 Quantitative Analysis prior to enrollment in this course.

Course Overview:

As a science, it is imperative that the field of psychology follows rigorous methods that are put in place to empirically test timely, interesting, and most importantly, testable questions. In some cases, the testable questions provide data that can support theory as well as the practical application of theory in the 'real world'. As such, Research Methods is one of the most important courses you will take as an undergraduate psychology major. Our knowledge of various areas of psychology (social, cognitive, developmental, etc.) would not be concise without the rigorous systematic research methods used by psychologists. One of the first things you will learn in this course is that it is not content specific. For example, although we will not learn about attitudes and decision-making in general, we will learn how to study individual attitudes and their relation to decision-making. Overall, you will be learning about the types of methodologies used by psychologists, how to conduct an experiment, and how to compose an empirical paper following the guidelines of the 6th edition Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

The knowledge and skills obtained in this course will help you improve your skills in scientific thinking from two different perspectives:

Consumer of Research: Regardless of whether you choose a career of research, it is important that you become knowledgeable consumers of information passed through the media with respect to research. With this in mind, an important goal of this course is to enhance your ability to critically read and evaluate information in the media that claims to report evidence of a scientific nature. At the same time, you will be thoughtfully deliberating the strengths and weaknesses of information reported through scientific journals, particularly those in psychology.

Teaching Objectives:

It is my responsibility to provide you with the fundamental knowledge of research methods and design used by psychologists. It is equally important that I facilitate your understanding for how systematic methodology can improve your understanding and build your knowledge and skills in psychology. A second, equivalent responsibility is to develop your professional writing skills in the style of the 6th edition of the American Psychological Association. Finally, you will develop the ability to think critically about empirical research, particularly in the context of internal and external validity when discussing the relative strengths and weaknesses of the major research methodologies.

Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course students will have a sound, working knowledge of the research methodologies used by psychologists. Students will also be prepared to enter PSYCH 440 with the necessary background in experimental design and review of statistics. In addition, Students will become adept at reading and critiquing scientific claims made in popular press as well as academic journals. Students will master APA-style by completing a research proposal at the end of the semester. Students will also become skilled at framing inquiries and problems as research questions. Students will also analyze and interpret data from studies conducted in class and present their findings in a professional manner. When completing all assignments in class, students will be required to adhere to the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct.

Lecture:

One of the primary goals of lecture is to develop your knowledge and skills as a consumer of psychology research. Lectures will also provide you with tools to be a skilled producer of research, a skillset that you will build upon concretely in the lab component of the course. Lectures will include review and explanation of selected material from your class text, active learning activities that will teach you how to critically evaluate others' research and produce high quality original research, elaboration of some topics with information not provided in the textbook, and in-class exercises. You are expected to take responsibility for what is covered in class. The most important way to do this is to be present in class and be an active participant in lecture. I will use a combination of PowerPoint presentations, white board, discussion, illustrative examples, and in-class exercises to teach the main concepts. Whenever appropriate lectures, slides and outlines will be distributed to class via email.

In-Class Activity Assignments:

In-class activities will take place at random points throughout the semester. You will complete these assignments during class time. You will not need to prepare in any way except to remain current with chapter readings and lecture notes. All activities will be turned in to me at the completion of class. The number of points awarded to these assignments will vary based on the nature, function, and intensity of the assignment. In-class assignments cannot be made up. They are worth 400 points of 1100 points you can earn in this class.

Tests:

There will be four mandatory tests throughout the term as well as an optional comprehensive final exam during final exam week (please refer to the Final Exam Schedule published at the Registrar's website for the date of this exam during Final Exam Week). Each exam will consist of

material covered in the text, lectures on class material, in-class assignment topics and any other relevant information covered during the specific time. If you take the optional comprehensive final exam, your lowest grade of all five exams will be dropped. There will be no makeup exams in this class. If you are sick, out of town, or miss for an illness/death in family and miss one of the tests, you must take the final exam to make up for the missed test. If you traveling on a university-sanctioned trip (e.g., for athletics) on the date of scheduled test, documentation will be required for alternative arrangements. Tests will be essay/short answer and will test your conceptual knowledge of the material in your Research Methods text as well as your understanding of the assignments, class discussions and lectures. Each test will be worth 100 points, for a total of 400 points.

Draft of Literature Review:

You will be required to submit a draft of your literature review. This draft will be graded and is worth 100 points. The draft will include a Title Page, Literature Review, and Reference page and will be completed in APA format. See schedule for date that this draft is due.

Proposal Presentation:

You will be required to present your research proposal to the class. I have reserved class time for each student to make a 15-minute presentation using PowerPoint slides. Your attendance is required at these presentations. I will deduct 15 points from your presentation grade if you are not in attendance during these presentations. Presentations will be selected on a random basis. Be prepared to present starting the first presentation date. The presentation is worth 100 points of your final grade.

Human Subjects Training Collaborative:

You will be required to complete the web-based training program in human research subject protection located at www.citiprogram.org. This initiative presents a series of Modules to complete with the goal of enhancing your knowledge of ethical practices in research with human subjects. Take your time with each Module. You are required to earn a combined score of 85. We will review the course together at which time you will sign into the program. Please keep your username and password secure so you are able to logoff and on when it is convenient to complete the course. You will required to print out the screen depicting completion of each Module along with the grade obtained in each Module. Successful completion of the Modules is due on the last day of class.

ORIP Day (Original Research in Psychology):

Wednesday of each week is designated ORIP Day and will be considered our 'lab' day. During this time we will work on aspects of the class that will enhance the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct original research in psychology. That being said, you will use this time to gain hands-on designing, conducting, analyzing, and writing up your own research studies. The majority of the points earned during ORIP days will be based on successful completion of three separate analyses/papers. The first is a literature review - in this format you will review previous research on a topic in psychology that you will select with my assistance. You will discuss this research in the context of developing testable research questions/predictions about the factors you have chosen to study.

<u>Total Number of Points</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
400	Four 100-point Tests
100	Proposal Presentation
400	In-class Assignments
100	Final APA Proposal
100	Draft of Literature Review
1100	Total Points Earned [Maximum]

SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	REQUIRED READING/ACTIVITIES
W 8/27	Welcome – Review Syllabus Psychology and Science Chapter 1	<i>Read Chapter 1 Develop Idea for Literature Review,</i>
F 8/29	Chapter 1, continued	<i>Read Chapter 2</i>
M 9/1	No Class	
W 9/3	Chapter 2	Developing a Research Question
F 9/5	Forming Hypothesis Statements	<i>Research question due</i>
M 9/8	Ethics in Research Chapter 3	
W 9/10	<i>O-RIP Day</i>	
F 9/12	Variables Chapter 5	<i>Identify Variables</i>
M 9/15	Chapter 5, continued	
W 9/17	<i>O-RIP Day</i>	
F 9/19	Test One	<i>Test One (Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 5 and all Exercises, in-class assignments)</i>
M 9/22	Validity Chapter 6	
W 9/24	<i>O-RIP Day</i>	<i>Hypothesis statements due</i>
F 9/26	Chapter 6, continued	<i>Locating Ideas in the Literature</i>
M 9/29	Chapter 7	

	Control	
W 10/1	O-RIP Day	Working on the Literature Review
F 10/3	Chapter 7, continued	
M 10/6	Chapter 8 Non-Experimental Research	<i>Part I: Observational, Archival, and Case-Study Research</i>
W 10/8	O-RIP Day	Working on the Literature Review
F 10/10		Literature Review Due
M 10/13	No Class	
T 10/14	Chapter 9	<i>Non-experimental Research: Part II: Survey Research</i>
W 10/15	Chapter 9, continued	
F 10/17	Test Two	<i>Chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9 and all lectures and in-class assignments</i>
M 10/20	True Experiments, Part I Chapter 10	<i>Single-Factor Designs</i>
W 10/22	O-RIP Day	
F 10/24	Chapter 10, continued	
M 10/27	O-RIP Day	
W 10/29	True Experiments, Part II Chapter 11	<i>Factorial Designs</i>
F 10/31	Chapter 11, continued	
M 11/3	Single Subject Experiments Chapter 12	
W 11/5	Quasi Experiments Chapter 13	
F 11/7	Chapter 13, continued	
M 11/10	Test Three	<i>Chapters 10, 11, 12, and 13 and all lectures and in-class assignments</i>
W 11/12	Review of Statistics	Chapters 14 and 15
F 11/14	Data Exploration Part I	<i>Graphic and Descriptive Techniques</i>

M 11/17	Data Exploration Part II	<i>Inferential Statistics</i>
W 11/19	<i>O-RIP Day</i>	Working on proposal presentation
F 11/21	Data Exploration Part II, continued	
M 11/24	Test Four	<i>Chapters 14 and 15 and all lectures and in-class assignments</i>
W 11/26	No Class	Thanksgiving Break
M 12/1	Proposal Presentations	
W 12/3	Proposal Presentations	
F 12/5	Proposal Presentations	
M 12/8	Proposal Presentations	Final Proposal due
	Comprehensive Final Exam	TBA

Tutorial Support Services:

Tutorial Support Services (TSS), located on the second floor of the University Library within the Center for Academic Development, provides peer and faculty tutoring at no charge for all RWU students. The Math, Writing, Science, and Foreign Language Centers offer assistance Monday – Thursday 9 am – 8 pm; Friday 9 am – 3 pm; Sunday 2 pm – 8 pm. For additional information about the Center, including tutor schedules, please see our website at <http://rwu.edu/go/tss>.

Academic Accommodations:

Students who wish to receive academic accommodations for this course must first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in order to begin the accommodation process. The SAS office will provide registered students with the specific information they will need to share with each instructor. SAS is located on the second floor of the Main University Library and is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. The contact number is 401-254-3841. Please then see me directly during my office hours so that we can have a private conversation about your specific needs. Please note Student Accessibility Services was previously known as Disability Support Services. Website: <http://rwu.edu/academics/academic-services/sas/current-students>

Academic Standards:

As you are aware, RWU has a defined set of policies and procedures outlined on the University's website: <http://rwu.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-standards>. Taken directly from the site: "Students are responsible for knowing and complying with the academic regulations of the University. Each College and School has an Academic Standards Committee that serves as the appeal committee for students requesting exceptions to academic policy. A petition obtained from the appropriate dean's office must be completed and submitted to the dean of the college or school in which the student is enrolled. The dean of the college or school, if necessary, forwards the petition to the appropriate Academic Standards Committee. Please refer to this statement on this site for any questions regarding academic integrity issues such as:

cheating, plagiarism, etc.". In this class it is important that you are aware that all instances of cheating and plagiarism will have serious consequences. At a minimum, you will receive a zero on the assignment. If the offense is serious enough, you may also receive an "F" in the course and you will be reported to the Academic Integrity Board. Please do not copy information without properly citing the authors. We will practice how to avoid 'paraphrasing' others' as well. I would like to stress that if you have any questions about what is considered plagiarism please see me.

In general, all of your written work will be graded as a function of following proper APA format. I will also be grading your spelling, grammar, and your ability to properly structure sentences and paragraphs. I will also be evaluating your ability to critically think about the information and assignments presented in class (measured by how well you report your command of the material and your ability to present that information in written format. I will also be evaluating how well you complete all in-class assignments. The final grade assigned for the course should reflect your overall performance in the course, as described by the criteria set forth in this syllabus. If you have read this far please email me no later than 1/24/2014 to receive 5 points.

Please be aware that if you choose to utilize RefWorks for your reference citations it is not completely accurate. Please refer to this site for issues with RefWorks with respect to proper APA-Style <http://library.up.edu/default.aspx?cid=7940&pid=58>

Academic Responsibility:

The course consists of reading, lectures, demonstrations, discussion, and in-class assignments. It is your responsibility to keep current on these materials. I do not have a "formal" attendance policy, per se. However, there will be 400 points of in-class assignments, I encourage you to attend all classes. Please do not come to class unprepared to take notes and participate. Cell phones distract other students from learning, disrupt lectures, and create an environment in which events outside the classroom appear to be more important than those occurring inside the classroom. As a result, the use of cell phones is not permitted during class time. They are to be kept turned off and out of view during class time. That said, no breaks from class will be allowed to either take or make telephone calls.

Please do not come to class late. Do not come to tests late. You will not be allowed to take a test if you are late. Your grade for the missed test will be zero. You are responsible for all material covered in class whether you are in class or not. Check with your classmates for missed material. All assignments are due at the start of class on the date noted on the syllabus. Late assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero, regardless of excuse. There is no opportunity to makeup missed in-class assignments, regardless of excuse. It is your responsibility to be in class to earn the points associated with the day's assignments.

With respect to absence due to religious observance, Roger Williams University welcomes and values people and their perspectives and respects the interests of all members of our community. RWU recognizes the breadth of religious observance among students, faculty, and staff, and the potential for conflict with scheduled components of the academic experience. Students are expected to review their syllabi and notify faculty as far in advance as possible of potential conflicts between course requirements and religious observances. Any student who faces a conflict between the requirements of a course and the observance of his or her religious faith should contact the instructor as early in the semester as possible. In such event the instructor will provide reasonable accommodations that do not unduly disadvantage the student.

Syllabus as a Contract:

This syllabus is a contract between the professor and student. Your enrollment in this class indicates you agree to adhere to the syllabus guidelines, including turning in all assignments on time according to the schedule. I reserve the right to change the schedule of topics and readings and I will give notice to you of such changes well in advance of those changes.